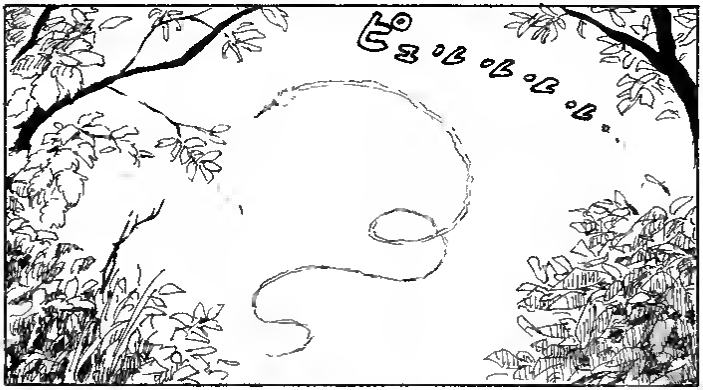
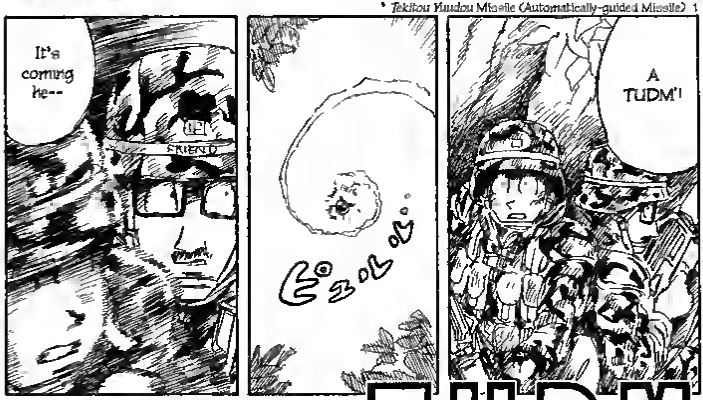
Not knowing from which direction their enemies are approaching, two men are struggling through the thick jungle, alternating between advancing and retreating. This is their story.

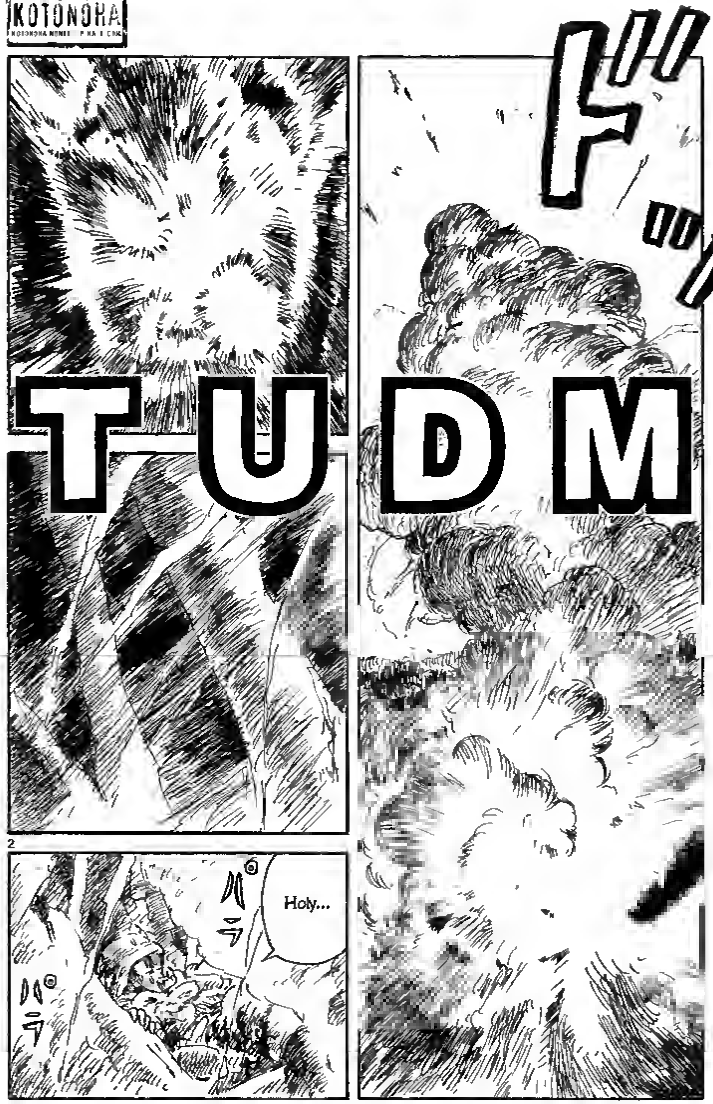


* *Tekitou Yuudou* Misaile (Automatically-guided Missile)



Special short story in 14 pages!

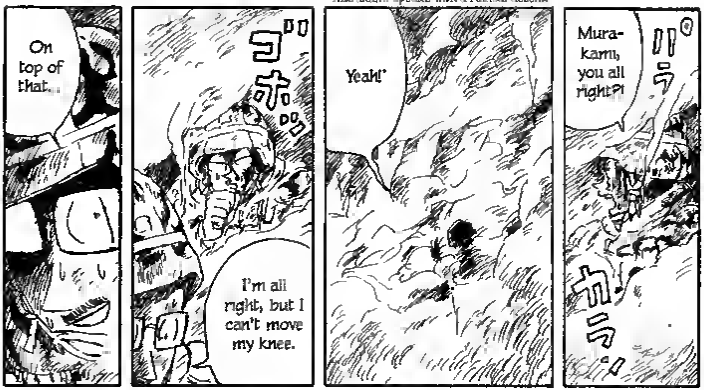
TUDM

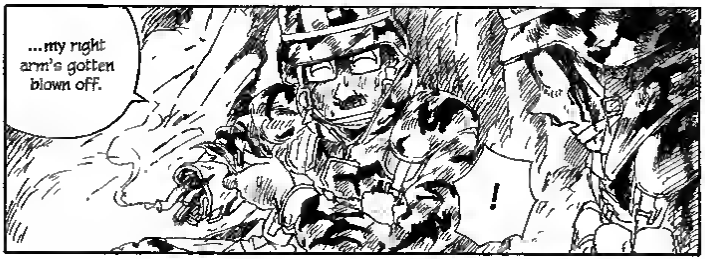


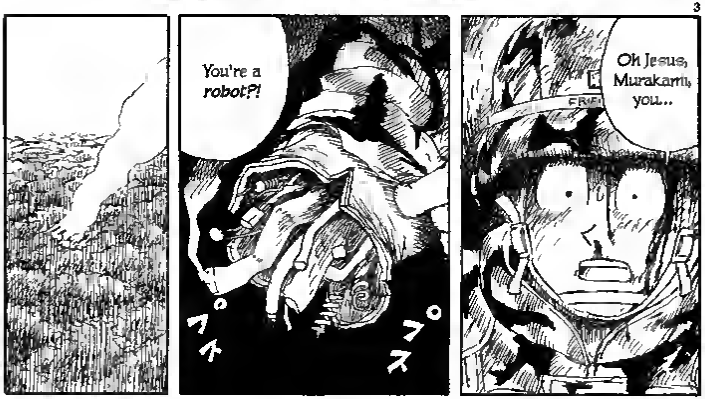
Tetsu Kasabe

TUDM

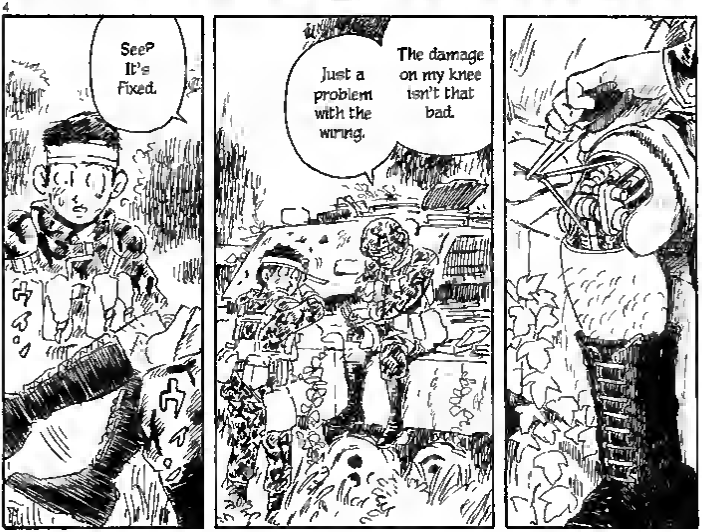
* Murakami speaks with a Kansai accent.







I just never got around to doing it.
I'm sorry. I actually meant to tell you much earlier
Why didn't you tell me about this?
I was assembled at a Kansai plant, that's why. I'm a Kansai guy through and through.
Jeez, why does a robot speak with a Kansai accent anyway?


See? It's Fixed.
Just a problem with the wiring.
The damage on my knee isn't that bad.

Well, we're not that different from humans.
And a damn fine one at that...
A robot, huh...?
The wound on your head is going to heal by itself too, isn't it?
What're you talkin' about? Humans can't fix their injuries by themselves now, can they?
5
Oh...
The healing process is only slightly different.
ドドド
ドドド

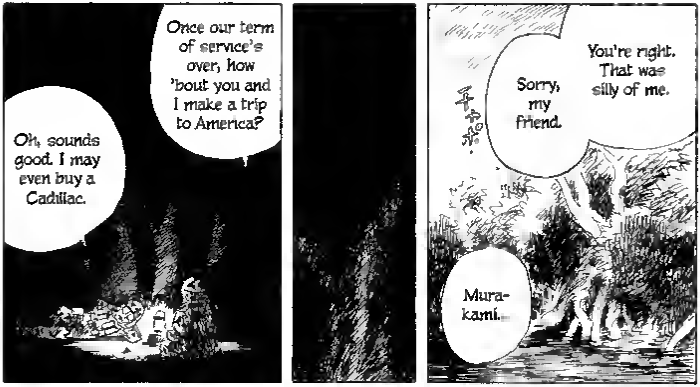
ラララ
ラララ
We're under heavy fire!!
Fall back! Fall back!!
6
Look at this!
ラララ
ラララ
OWW!!
Where the hell are they shootin' from?! Shit!

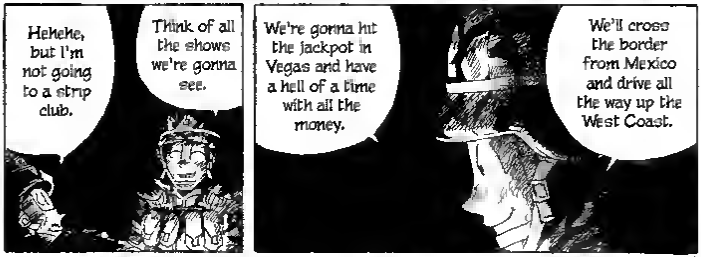
TUDM

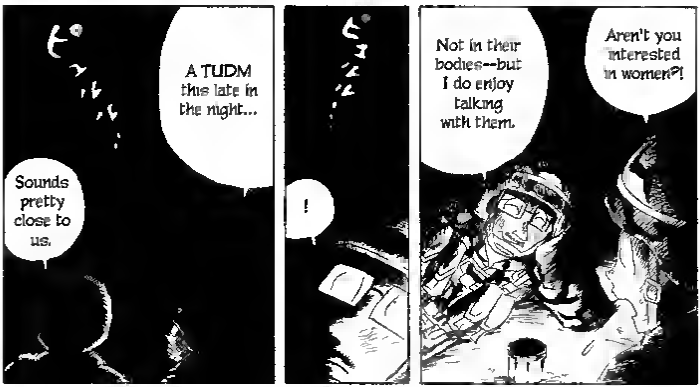
...
We should call for air support and launch a new attack.
Five centimeters more and I would've been a dead man!
Do robots fear death, too?
Of course we do!
What is it?
Hey Murakami, I'm sorry if this question offends you, but...
In other words, his conscious self will disappear from this world.
A robot is fatally wounded when his AI unit is damaged.
FRIEND
So a robot also possesses a consciousness?
Am I going to disappear from this world? -- That's too dreadful a thought to even contemplate.

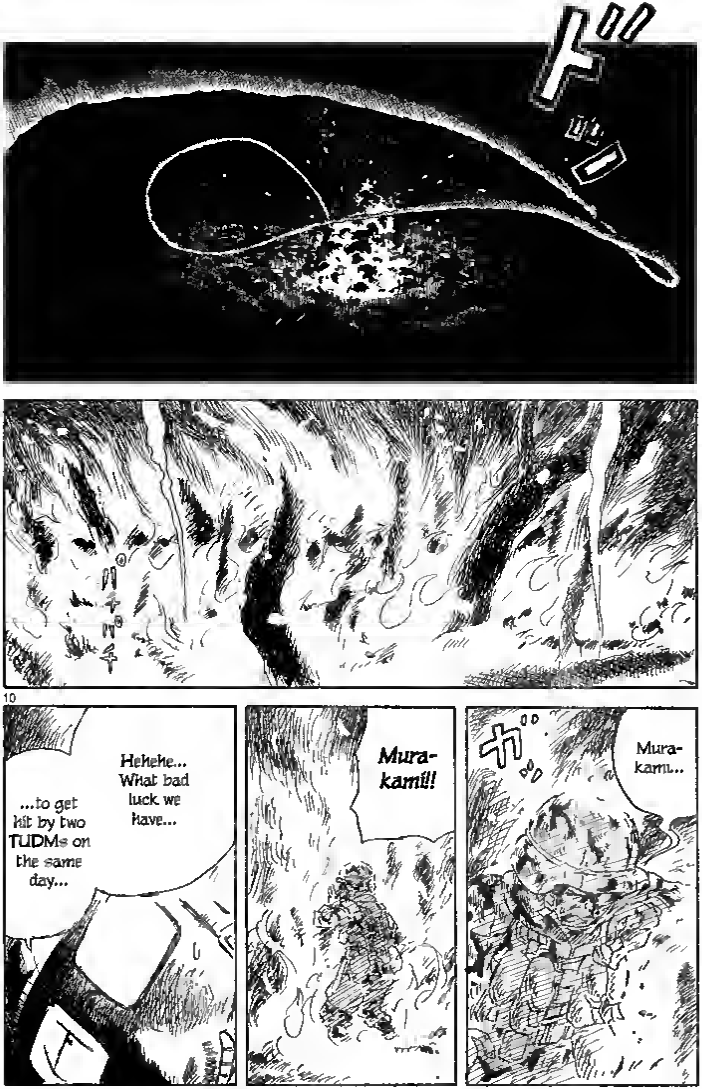
Sorry. That wasn't what I meant...
!
All those questions... Do you think of me as a soulless being?
Personally, I think feelings are more important than such logical reasoning
Well, I guess we could talk endlessly about complex topics such as consciousness, ego, and the like.
Why are you saying that?
Murakami!
...because you think I'm just a machine.
It would kill me if you stopped trusting me...
!
Do you really think I'd fight side-by-side with someone I can't trust on the battlefield?!

TUDM

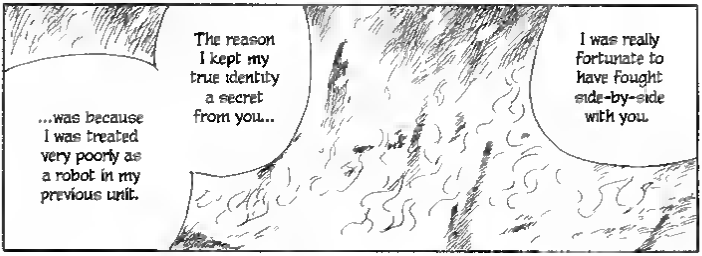

Once our term of service's over, how 'bout you and I make a trip to America?
Oh, sounds good. I may even buy a Cadillac.
You're right. That was silly of me.
Sorry, my friend.
Mura-kami...

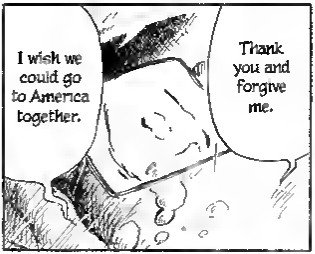

Think of all the shows we're gonna see.
Hehehe, but I'm not going to a strip club.
We'll cross the border from Mexico and drive all the way up the West Coast.
We're gonna hit the jackpot in Vegas and have a hell of a time with all the money.

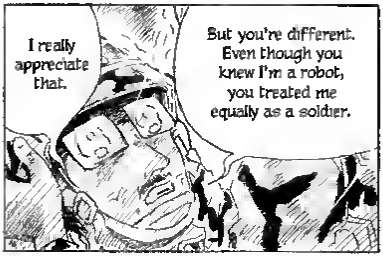

A TUDM this late in the night...
Sounds pretty close to us.
!
Aren't you interested in women?!
Not in their bodies--but I do enjoy talking with them.


ドゴォ
ドゴォ
10
Hehehe... What bad luck we have...
...to get hit by two TUDMs on the same day...
Murakami!!
ガバッ
Murakami...

Hey, can I ask you for a last favor?
Hang in there, buddy!!
It's war. There's nothing we can do.
Hehe... I guess this is my end.
Mura-kami!!
When I was a new recruit I used to spend a lot of time there watching the sea.
There's a hill behind our battalion HQ over which the sun sets, right?
Uh-oh. My eyes are going dark...
On the hill over which the sun sets?
Would you bury my remains there?


...was because I was treated very poorly as a robot in my previous unit.
The reason I kept my true identity a secret from you...
I was really fortunate to have fought side-by-side with you.

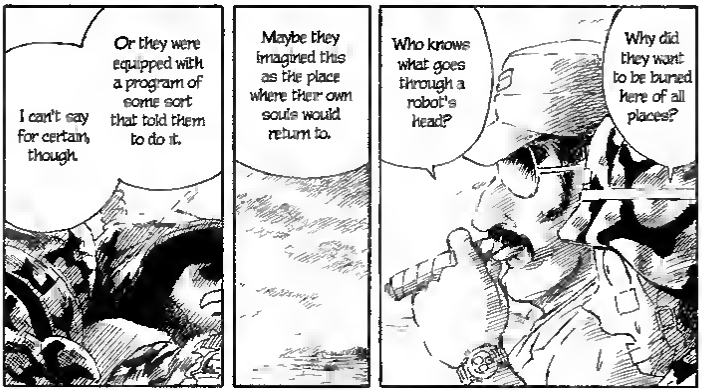

I wish we could go to America together.
Thank you and forgive me.

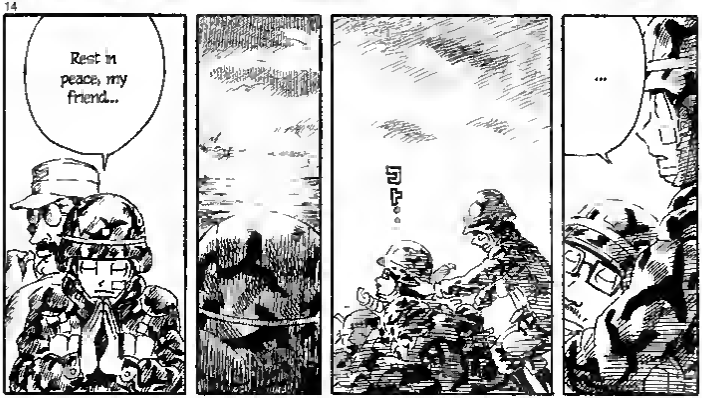

I really appreciate that.
But you're different. Even though you knew I'm a robot, you treated me equally as a soldier.

MURAKAMI!!!

?!
Whew!
Whoa!
13
A few of them came here on their own when they were dying.
Curious, isn't it? They all expressed the wish to be buried here.
But what is this?
Are you here to hold a robot's funeral as well?
Yes...

ON THE HILL OVER WHICH THE SUN SET LAY A PILE OF ABANDONED ROBOT BODIES.
IT WAS A STRANGE SIGHT.


I can't say for certain, though.
Or they were equipped with a program of some sort that told them to do it.
Maybe they imagined this as the place where their own souls would return to.
Who knows what goes through a robot's head?
Why did they want to be buried here of all places?


Rest in peace, my friend...
ガシャ。
...

THE END